

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

August 2012 – Week 1

Air Date: July 29 – August 4 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: BIG INCH AND THE NAZIS

AUGUST 1942 AND NAZI U-BOATS THREATEN TEXAS OIL.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

AUGUST 3, 1942. WORLD WAR II, HOUSTON. GERMAN U-BOATS PROWL THE GULF OF MEXICO.

OIL COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT DECIDE TO BUILD PIPELINES FROM TEXAS TO THE NORTHEAST TO AVOID ENEMY SUBS, AND THE BIG INCH AND LITTLE BIG INCH PIPELINES ARE BORN.

THREE FEET WIDE AND 12 HUNDRED MILES LONG, THE BIG INCH GOES FROM LONGVIEW ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI TO NEW YORK. THE LITTLE BIG INCH GOES FROM HOUSTON TO NEW JERSEY.

COSTING 146 MILLION DOLLARS, THE TWO PIPELINES CARRIED OVER 350 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL, AND HELPED WIN THE WAR FOR THE ALLIES.

THE BIG INCH AND LITTLE INCH PIPELINES WERE BEGUN 70 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Jerrell Dean Palmer and John G. Johnson, "BIG INCH AND LITTLE BIG INCH," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dob08>), accessed July 19, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"Big Inch," *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Inch), accessed July 19, 2012.

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